Building 46 Conversion Project Under Way

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory was scheduled to be commercialized on March 1, 2001, as part of site transition at the U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO). However, the negotiating commercial laboratory operator formally withdrew its proposal to the Riverview Technology Corporation in November 2000.

Because of the potential analytical work required for the Moab (Utah) Site cleanup, DOE decided to continue to own the operation of this laboratory after site transition. This decision will be reevaluated every 3 years. The GJO property will be transferred to the Riverview Technology Corporation as planned, and DOE–GJO will lease back Building 20 that houses the laboratory operations.

The Analytical Chemistry Laboratory operation requires use of a sample preparation plant that is currently located in a building scheduled for demolition this year. This building is on land that DOE–GJO has agreed to transfer to the U.S. Army Reserve.

DOE–GJO reached an agreement with the Riverview Technology Corporation in November 2000 to convert Building 46, which formerly housed the kitchen and cafeteria facility, to a new sample preparation plant. After site transition, DOE–GJO will also lease Building 46 back from the Riverview Technology Corporation.

On November 29, 2000, DOE–GJO authorized its Facility Operations and Support contractor, *WASTREN, Inc.,* to begin the Building 46 conversion. Work began immediately with the removal of the kitchen and cafeteria equipment. This equipment is being stored in another building on the GJO facility for use by another future tenant of the Riverview Technology Corporation.

Engineering design activities also started immediately. Reconfiguring the cafeteria building as a sample preparation plant has involved a significant engineering effort to meet a goal of new operations functioning in March 2001. Major tasks have included redesigning the interior of the building to accommodate sample preparation equipment and personnel, designing a process air filtration system that will comply with federal emission standards, and designing appropriate primary and emergency power systems.

A portion of the new sample preparation plant will become radiologically contaminated because of the nature of samples that will be prepared for analyses. To minimize facility remediation costs at the end of operations, the walls and ceiling in the sample preparation area of the building were encapsulated with a secondary layer of finished drywall, and the floor will be covered with an industrial-grade vinyl surface. If the building needs to be used for a different purpose, remediation may be possible by removing the secondary drywall and vinyl.

Currently, the building reconfiguration work is on schedule. New interior walls have been constructed and doors installed, primary and secondary power systems have been installed, interior electrical work is under way, air filtration and mechanical systems are being manufactured, and sample preparation equipment is being readied for transfer to the converted Building 46.❖